

bridge¹ (brij) *n.* [ME. *brisse* < OE. *brycge* < IE. base **bhr̥n̥*, log, beam, hence wooden causeway] 1. a structure built over a river, railroad, highway, etc. to provide a way across for vehicles or pedestrians 2. a thing that provides connection, contact, or transition /a common language is a *bridge* between cultures/ 3. *a)* the upper bony part of the nose. *b)* the curved bow of a pair of glasses fitting over the nose 4. the thin arched piece over which the strings of a violin, cello, etc. are stretched 5. an overhead framework across sets of railroad tracks, for carrying signals; gantry 6. a platform above the main deck of a ship, from which it is controlled, as by the commanding officer 7. a dividing partition for keeping fuel in place in a furnace or boiler 8. *Billiards a)* the position in which the hand is placed to form a support for the cue in making a shot *b)* a notched piece of wood sometimes used for this purpose 9. *Dentistry* a fixed or removable mounting for a false tooth or teeth, attached to a real tooth or teeth 10. *Elec.* a device used primarily in measuring resistances, frequencies, etc., by comparing the effect of the unknown element with that of known or standard elements in the circuit 11. *Music* a connecting passage between two sections of a composition —*v.* **bridged**, **bridging** 1. to build a bridge on or over 2. to provide a bridge, connection, transition, etc. across or between —**burn one's bridges (behind one)** to commit oneself to a course from which there is no retreat —**bridge/a. ble adj.**

bridge² (brij) *n.* [earlier (1886) *birich*, "Russian whist," altered after prec.; game and name ? of Russ. origin] any of various card games for two pairs of players, that developed from whist: see AUCTION BRIDGE, CONTRACT BRIDGE

bridge-board (-bôrd') *n.* any of the notched boards holding the treads and risers of a staircase; string P. 176

bridge-head (-hed') *n.* 1. a fortified place or position established by an attacking force on the enemy's side of a bridge, river, defile, etc. 2. *same* as BEACHHEAD (sense 2)

Bridge-port (brij'pôrt) [after the bridge across the Poquonock River] seaport in SW Conn., on Long Island Sound: pop. 143,000

Bridges (brij'ez) 1. Harry, (born Alfred Bryant Renlon Bridges) 1900-; U.S. labor leader, born in Australia 2. Robert (Seymour), 1844-1930; Eng. poet; poet laureate (1913-30) 176

